

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1591

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETUC, LU, EEC, ILO, PINR (HINTERSCHEID, MATHIAS)

SUBJECT: HINTERSCHEID DISCUSSES ETUC AND ILO

REFS: (A) 75 EC BRUSSELS 11279, (B) 75 LUXEMBOURG 1075

1. SUMMARY: TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE IN LUXEMBOURG OF THE LABOR ATTACHES FROM EMBASSY PARIS AND USEC, CHARGE PHILLIPS HOSTED A LUNCHEON FOR LUXEMBOURG CGT LEADERS MATHIAS HINTERSCHEID AND ROBERT MEIS ON JANUARY 15. HINTERSCHEID, WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EUEO-PEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) AT ITS SECOND TRIENNIAL CONGRESS IN LONDON NEXT APRIL, REVIEWED SOME OF BASIC PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE ETUC WHICH HE HOPES WILL BE RESOLVED UNDER HIS STEWARDSHIP. SINCE HE VIEWS THE SUCCESS

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OF THE ETUC AS BEING LARGELY LINKED WITH THAT OF THE EUROPEAN

COMMUNITY, HINTERSCHIED ASCRIBED PRIORITY STATUS TO SEEKING SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT ARISING FROM THE PRESENCE IN THE ETUC OF TRADE UNIONS FROM NON-EC MEMBER STATES. HINTERSCHIED FEELS THAT FRENCH CGT MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC IS INEVITABLE, A VIEW HE CLAIMS IS SHARED BY GERMAN DGB LEADER VETTER. HE ALSO FEELS THERE IS A NEED TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR GREATER COORDINATION BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS AND ETUC TRADE SECRETARIATS. IN REGARD TO ILO, HINTERSCHIED SAID THAT HE COULD UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE REASONS BEHIND THE US NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW, BUT THAT THE ACTION ITSELF WAS "TANTAMOUNT TO BLACKMAIL" AND PERHAPS NOT THE BEST WAY TO GO ABOUT RESTORING THE ILO TO ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSES. END SUMMARY.

2. ETUC AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: THE LACK OF INTERNAL UNITY IN THE ETUC IS ONE OF LUXEMBOURG CGT LEADER HINTERSCHIED'S PRIMARY CONCERNS AS HE CONTEMPLATES ASSUMING THE ETUC SECRETARY GENERALSHIP FOUR MONTHS FROM NOW. (HINTERSCHIED HAS RECEIVED THE UNANIMOUS ENDORSEMENT OF THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND IS EXPECTED TO BE ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION AT THE ETUC CONGRESS IN APRIL. SEE REFTELS.) HINTERSCHIED IS CONVINCED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE ETUC DEPENDS IN LARGE MEASURE ON THE NATURE OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS ABILITY TO INFLUENCE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS CHARGED WITH FORMULATING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES. ACCORDING TO HINTERSCHIED, THE FACT THAT THE ETUC IS COMPOSED OF UNIONS FROM EC AS WELL AS NON-EC COUNTRIES, HAS IMPOSED SERIOUS LIMITATIONS ON THE ETUC IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING A COORDINATED POLICY FOR DEALING WITH THE EC. HE SEES THIS AS A COMPLEX AND EXTREMELY DIFFICULT PROBLEM TO RESOLVE BECAUSE ETUC INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE, EXTEND BEYOND COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES. HE FEELS THAT A WAY MUST BE FOUND TO SATISFY THE EXPECTATIONS OF AFFILIATES FROM NON-EC MEMBER STATES WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY ALLOWING THE ETUC TO SHAPE ITS POLICIES AND PROGRAMS WITHIN A COMMUNITY CONTEXT. HE SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE GIVEN TO A TWO-TIER DUES STRUCTURE WITH THE ORGANIZATIONS FROM NON-EC UNIONS PAYING LESS TO COMPENSATE FOR THE GREATER ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO THE CONCERNS OF EC AFFILIATES. HE WILL BE DEVELOPING CONCRETE PROPOSALS IN THIS AREA IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

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3. CGT MEMBERSHIP: HINTERSCHIED BELIEVES THAT FRENCH CGT MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC IS INEVITABLE. HE SAID THAT THIS VIEW IS SHARED BY GERMAN DGB LEADER VETTER WHO ALSO SERVES AS ETUC PRESIDENT. HINTERSCHIED REFERRED TO RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH VETTER IN WHICH VETTER ACKNOWLEDGED THE "USEFULNESS" OF CGT ADMISSION TO THE ETUC. INTERPRETING VETTER'S APPARENT "AMBIVALANCE" ON THE CGT ISSUE, THUS FAR HINTERSCHIED SAID

THAT THE DGB MEMBERSHIP IS EVENLY DIVIDED ON THE QUESTION OF CGT ENTRY WHICH HAS MILITATED AGAINST VETTER TAKING A MORE CLEARLY DEFINED POSITION. THIS ALSO EXPLAINS, ACCORDING TO HINTERSCHEID, WHY VETTER HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO INSIST THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS BE MET BY THE CGT BEFORE AFFILIATION IS GRANTED. HINTERSCHEID, HOWEVER, RECALLED THAT THE CGIL DECLARATION OF ASSOCIATED STATUS WITH THE WFTU WAS THE RESULT OF A CGIL INITIATIVE AND NOT A CONDITION IMPOSED BY THE ETUC. SINCE IN REALITY, NO CONDITIONS WERE ATTACHED TO CGIL ENTRY, HE SAID, THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR IMPOSING THEM ON CGT. HINTERSCHEID DID NOT REFER TO THE FACT THAT THE CGIL WAS SUPPORTED BY CISL AND UIL IN ITS BID FOR MEMBERSHIP WHICH IS NOT THE CASE IN FRANCE WHERE THE FO IS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO CGT ADMISSION.

4. WHILE FAVORING CGT ADMISSION HINTERSCHEID MINCED FEW WORDS IN DISCOUNTING THE MESSAGE DELIVERED TO THE ETUC LAST YEAR BY CGT LEADER SEGUY TO THE EFFECT THAT "NOTHING CAN BE DONE IN FRANCE WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF CGT." DESCRIBING THIS AS A "GROSS OVERSTATEMENT" HINTERSCHEID SAID THAT A GREAT DEAL HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN FRANCE DESPITE THE CGT AND THAT THE ETUC SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE CGT THAT FALLACIOUS ARGUMENTS OF THIS KIND ARE UNACCEPTABLE AND INCONSISTENT WITH THE CGT'S BID FOR THE ETUC MEMBERSHIP.

5. CGIL AND CGT MEETINGS: HINTERSCHEID BRIEFLY COMMENTED ON THE INCREASING FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS BETWEEN THE CGT AND CGIL DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS. HE SPECULATED THAT THE CGT ADMISSION ISSUE WAS PROBABLY AMONG MATTERS DISCUSSED BUT HE WAS NOT SURE WHO WAS INFLUENCING WHOM. THIS VIEW TENDS TO CONTRADICT PREVIOUS INTERPRETATIONS FROM OTHER MISSION SOURCES THAT THE CGIL WAS PURPOSELY AVOIDING THE ISSUE AND SEEMED CONTENT TO LET CISL LEADER STORTI JOIN THE OPPOSITION.

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SITION TO CGT ENTRY IN THE NAME OF ALL THREE ITALIAN CONFEDERATIONS.

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AMEMBASSY BERN

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6. TRADE SECRETARIATS: HINTERSCHIED SCKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE PARALLEL EXISTENCE OF ETUC TRADE SECRETARIATS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS. HE SAID THAT THESE PROBLEMS WERE SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED BY PERSONALITIES BUT HE FEELS THAT GREATER COORDINATION UNDER THE TWO UMBRELLAS WILL DIMINISH THE PROBLEMS AND HE INTENDS TO ENCOURAGE THIS AT THE ETUC SECRETARIAT LEVEL.

7. ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL: HINTERSCHIED INDICATED THAT HIS PERSONAL CHOICE FOR THE POSITION OF ETUC ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL IS JEAN KULAKOWSKI. HE SAID THAT KULAKOWSKI, THE FORMER HEAD OF THE NOW EXTINCT CHRISTIAN-ORIENTED EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR, IS EXTREMELY WELL QUALIFIED FOR THE JOB. NOTE: BECAUSE OF HIS CHRISTIAN UNION ANTECEDENTS KULAKOWSKI MAY ENCOUNTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPPOSITION AT THE ETUC CONGRESS BUT HINTERSCHIED'S ENDORSEMENT SHOULD BOOST HIS CHANCES CONSIDERABLY.

8. ILO: HINTERSCHIED, WHO HAS BEEN LUXEMBOURG'S WORKER DELEGATE TO THE ILO, OBVIOUSLY KEEPS ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS IN GENEVA AND IS THOROUGHLY ACQUAINTED WITH ILO OPERATIONS. IN A CAREFULLY PHRASED COMMENTARY ON THE US DECISION TO GIVE

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW, HINTERSCHEID EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE DECISION AND SUGGESTED IT WAS NOT THE BEST WAY TO HELP THE ILO TO RETURN TO THE OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH IT WAS ORGANIZED. HE SAID THAT "WHEN A GOVERNMENT USES ITS ECONOMIC LEVERAGE TO PRESS A POINT, IT IS TANTAMOUNT TO BLACKMAIL." ON THE QUESTION OF POLITIZATION OF THE ILO HE RECOGNIZED THAT SPEECHES AT THE ILO WERE OFTEN POLITICAL BUT SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT A DOMINANT FACTOR IN TERMS OF THE ILO'S WORK AND THAT IN ANY EVENT IT IS NOT AS BAD AS THE US ALLEGES.

9. TRIPARTISM: HINTERSCHEID DESCRIBED SOVIET PRESSURE FOR ACCEPTANCE IN THE EMPLOYERS GROUP AS "NORMAL LOBBYING" WHICH HE CONTENDS DOES NOT POSE A THREAT TO THE ILO'S TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE. HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN THE WORKERS GROUP WHERE THE ICFTU AND PIMENOV ARE LOBBYING FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS IS ANALAGOUS. HE ADDED THAT IN ANY EVENT, THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THIS WAS WHEN THE SOVIET BLOC WAS FIRST ADMITTED. ONCE THEY WERE IN, HE SAID THAT DIE WAS CAST AND DESPITE THE FACT, HE EMPHASIZED, THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NO LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO MEMBERSHIP IN EITHER THE WORKERS OR THE EMPLOYERS GROUP, NOTHING CAN BE DONE TO CHANGE THIS REALITY. HINTERSCHEID CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF EUROPEANS AT THE ILO SHOULD BE ONE OF "DISSUADING THE SOVIETS FROM PERSISTING IN THEIR PRESSURE TACTICS AND FROM DIVERTING THE ILO FROM THE OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH IF WAS FOUNDED.

10. COMMENT: UNPRETENTIOUS AND YET SELF-ASSURED, IT READILY APPARENT THAT HINTERSCHEID BRINGS A NEW DIMENSION OF LEADERSHIP TO THE 37 MILLION MEMBER ETUC WHICH HAS FLOUNDERED LIKE A RUDDERLESS SHIP SINCE ITS CREATION IN 1973. UNLIKE SO MANY OFFICIALS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS, HE IS AN UP-FROM-THE-RANKS NATIONAL TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL LEADER OF RECOGNIZED ABILITY AND STATURE. ADDITIONALLY, ACCORDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO OUR SOURCES, HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF BOTH THE GERMAN DGB AND THE BRITISH TUC WHICH WAS NOT THE CASE OF HIS PREDECESSOR, THEO RASSCHAERT, WHO WAS OFTEN LOOKED UPON AS "VETTER'S BOY" AND WAS LIGHTLY REGARDED BY THE BRITISH. DURING OUT THREE-HOUR CONVERSATION WITH HIM, HE IMPRESSED US AS BEING KNOWLEDGEABLE, INTELLIGENT AND POLITICALLY ASTUTE. WHETHER OR NOT THESE TALENTS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO HIS BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO THE ETUC MUST AWAIT FUTURE JUDGMENT. THE OBSTACLES WHICH HAVE THWARTED ETUC DEVELOPMENT THUS FAR ARE FORMIDIBLE AND MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE AMOUNT OF AUTHORITY AND SUPPORT WHICH IS MANDATED TO HINTERSCHEID BY THE ETUC'S PRINCIPAL AFFILIATES.GREENWALD

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